

NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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MARION MAN SENTENCED FOR METHAMPHETAMINE-RELATED OFFENSES

Randy G. Massey, Acting United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois, today announced that **Kevin Page**, age 27, of Marion, Illinois, was sentenced to 148 months imprisonment based upon his plea of guilty to the two counts of an indictment returned against him by a United States Grand Jury in Benton, Illinois, on April 5th of this year. That indictment alleged his involvement in the theft and attempted theft of anhydrous ammonia from a farm located in Franklin County, Illinois on August 19, 2005. The sentencing took place in United States District Court at Benton, Illinois, on December 7, 2006.

At the hearing on his change of plea, the defendant admitted to being involved in stealing a small quantity of anhydrous ammonia on the 19th of August, 2005, and then later the same night to going back and trying to steal an entire farm tank containing anhydrous ammonia. The second attempt was foiled when the defendant and a coconspirator got the farm tank stuck in the mud and were apprehended by law enforcement. The investigation determined that the defendant intended to provide the stolen anhydrous ammonia to others in Williamson and Franklin County to be used to manufacture methamphetamine.

Investigation into the case was handled by the COMIT Drug Task Force, the Southern Illinois Enforcement Group, the Illinois State Police Methamphetamine Response Team, the Southern Illinois Drug Task Force; the Herrin, Crainville and Carterville, Police Departments; the Franklin, Williamson and Jackson County Sheriffs' Offices; and by the United States Drug Enforcement Administration.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Michael C. Carr.